

and this purge on humankind will forever and ever stain our collective memories.

President Bush, in looking back on these same atrocities that took place in Rwanda, once a very long time ago declared, "Not on my watch."

Indeed, all decent, responsible people now look back in disgrace and horror as we recall how genocide was passively allowed to take place in our modern and civilized world, and we did nothing, absolutely nothing, to stop it.

Today, as we face the same predicament, it is imperative that we act quickly and decisively to stop the brutality before it spreads any further, stop the rapes, stop the murders before they spread any further, because this type of mass murder and brutality not only hurts those who are being oppressed, but it also damages the souls and the psyches of those who stand by and provide no help. If we are the true leader of the free world, then America has the added responsibility and the duty to stand up and fight for the oppressed. We have the power. We have the prominence. We have the influence to act, and that is what we must do. We do not have to use brute force in Sudan to fight these atrocities, but at the very least, we must, we must, we must rally the world to this cause. We must show honor. We must show courage. We must lead others in this struggle for human dignity and respect.

My friends, this is not a Republican or a Democratic issue. This is not even an American issue. This is a human issue. And we all have a stake in the outcome, because if we live in a world where people are allowed to be mutilated and raped, where people can be pushed out of their homes and murdered indiscriminately and without reproach while the powerful just stand by and watch, then we are losing the war against terror, and the world we are leaving for our children will be one not worth fighting for.

We must act. We must act now. We must stop the murder and the genocide in Darfur.

THE WORSENING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman PAYNE, Congressman MCGOVERN, and Congresswoman BARBARA LEE for their leadership and for their commitment to bring peace and security in the war-torn region in western Sudan that we have talked about today as Darfur.

I rise today to echo what my colleagues of the Sudan Caucus have already said. We all know what is going on in Darfur and what needs to be done. What else needs to be said or done for the United Nations to act effectively?

The situation in Darfur has deteriorated rapidly over just the last few

months, with increased rapes, 500 rapes over the summer in one camp alone; renewed attacks on innocent victims, 12 humanitarian workers killed, including 2 in the last 4 weeks; 26,000 Sudan Armed Forces headed to the Darfur region to engage in a major offensive; renewed air bombardments; the peace agreement not working; continued integration of the Janjaweed into the security forces of the national police of the government; government-sponsored terrorism against innocent victims.

How many lives need to be affected, Mr. Speaker, before we say it is enough? Two point six million, is that not enough?

How many people need to be displaced, Mr. Speaker? Two million? Two million is not enough?

How many people need to die? Four hundred thousand women and children, innocent people?

How many women need to be raped before we say enough is enough in that region of the world, and our Nation will not stand for it?

Someone said the death of any person diminishes each one of us. If that be true, and if we are truly involved in the global world, then all of us, every life in this country, every life in America, every life in the world, is made smaller and less significant by the suffering we let others endure and by the suffering we tolerate of them in Darfur.

The people of Darfur are suffering a slow and painful death, and it is a catastrophe that doesn't have to take place. We have options. We can do things about this. And as other speakers have said, it doesn't involve brute force. It doesn't involve going to war. It involves making sure that the United Nations does its job, that America does its job, that we engage the government there, but that we don't wait for the government to give permission to come into the region, that we do what needs to be done. Because that region is so vast and so large and so difficult to patrol, it takes a lot of forces in there to make it work. And it takes, also, people on the ground feeling confident and hopeful enough to take some things into their own hands. Right now they don't have any idea what tomorrow is going to bring, and they cannot have hope in that sort of situation.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are here tonight to urge the American people to become engaged with us in the Congress, with the voices that are here that are now trying to tell the people in this country how important Darfur is to all of us, to our country not because it has a lot of oil or a lot of sugarcane or a lot of other things that we are using in this country, not because it has a lot of people there who are committed to democracy and to America, but because there are human beings there who are suffering needlessly, and we can stop it. We can do something about it. And if we don't, it makes us smaller in our efforts to increase our stature in the world.

There is no way, as some have said, that we are going to take America's credibility seriously on the issues of human rights and the issues of democracy if we do not do it where it is taking place in the worst and most flagrant fashion. So that place today happens to be Darfur.

We watched in astonishment when we saw the atrocities in Rwanda. We watched in other places around the world. But the major place right now where we have so much going on in one place, one little corner of the world where innocent people are dying and we can do something about it, is Darfur.

So I hope the American people get this name in their minds, look this country up on the map, and come to understand what is going on. It is important to us. It is important to us as human beings that we do something about this. And we are here tonight almost just as voices in the wilderness crying about this thing. Look, it is time for America to act. It is time for our President to act. It is time for our Congress to act. It is time for all of us to engage in this.

So that is why we are on the floor tonight, to make sure that those who are at home now around their dinner tables, who are sitting and watching some show on television might take a minute just to think about the people in Darfur and try to find a way with all of us to join hands with them to help to end their suffering.

□ 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. ESHOO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ESHOO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized for 5 minutes.